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DESCRIPTION**ROTARY NOZZLE BRICK BODY****TECHNICAL FIELD**

The present invention relates to a brick body for a rotary nozzle which is mounted on the bottom of molten steel container such as a ladle and a tundish so as to control the pouring amount of molten steel or the like by adjusting the opening degree of nozzle holes between a sliding plate brick and a fixed plate brick with aid of rotating the sliding plate brick.

BACKGROUND ART

The rotary nozzle has been widely used as a device for adjusting the quantity of molten steel, in an appliance such as a ladle for carrying molten steel discharged from a steel converter or pouring into a mold, or a tundish for receiving molten steel from the ladle and pouring into a mold. In a rotary nozzle 25 conventionally used, as shown in FIGS. 3, 4, a fixed plate brick 2a is fixed in a concave portion 17 of an upper case 15 mounted on a base plate 10 installed

on the bottom 9 of a ladle 8. A sliding plate brick 3a is fixed in a concave portion 18 of a lower case 16 capable of rotating.

A nozzle hole 4a is made in the fixed plate brick 2a and the fixed plate brick 2a is fixed to the upper case 15 at a position in which the hole 4a matches with a nozzle hole 13 in the upper nozzle 11. Nozzle holes 5b, 5c are made in the sliding plate brick 3a and the sliding plate brick 3a is fixed to the lower case 16 at a position in which the holes 5b, 5c match with nozzle holes 14, 14a in the lower nozzles 12, 12a. As shown in FIG. 3, a gear 19 is provided on the outer peripheral portion of the head portion of the lower case 16 which fixes the sliding plate brick 3a and this gear 19 is meshed with a gear 21 of a reducer 20 installed on the bottom 9 of the ladle 8, so that the sliding plate brick 3a is rotated by a drive motor 22 used as a drive power, sliding on a fixed plate brick face 2a while maintaining a contact force to the fixed plate brick 2a.

Thus, molten steel flows from the nozzle hole 13 in the upper nozzle 11 into the nozzle hole 4a in the fixed plate brick 2a as indicated with an arrow in FIG. 4. The sliding plate brick 3a rotates up to a position in which either of the nozzle hole 5b and the nozzle

hole 5c in the sliding plate brick 3a and thus either of the nozzle holes 14 and 14a in the lower nozzles 12, 12a matches with the nozzle hole 4a in the fixed plate brick 2a, and the molten steel flows further and is poured.

As for control of the pouring amount of molten steel, as shown in FIGS. 5a, 5b, as the rotation starts, the nozzle hole 5b in the sliding plate brick 3a and the nozzle hole 14 in the lower nozzle 12 deviate from the nozzle hole 13 in the upper nozzle 11 and the nozzle hole 4a in the fixed plate brick 2a so that an opening portion 23 narrows gradually. As the sliding plate brick 3a rotates further, the nozzle hole 4a in the fixed plate brick 2a is closed as shown in FIGS. 6a, 6b and the nozzle hole 4a remains closed completely until the sliding plate brick 3a rotates further so that the nozzle hole 5b in the sliding plate brick 3a meets with the nozzle hole 4a in the fixed plate brick 2a. As a result, discharge of molten steel from the ladle is stopped temporarily. In this way, the rotary nozzle repeats its sliding rotation to adjust the discharge amount of molten steel.

Since the fixed plate brick and the sliding plate brick of a conventional rotary nozzle are damaged due to melting by a passage

of high temperature molten steel during this sliding rotation, there is a fear that molten steel may leak. Therefore, both the bricks have been handled as consumable parts which must be replaced periodically. However, because the fixed plate brick and the sliding plate brick are expensive, it has been indispensable to study about the configuration and structure which enables its durability to be improved to extend the replacement cycle as long as possible. Thus, as a related art, an invention of Japanese Patent Application No. 327897 (rotary nozzle brick body and rotary nozzle) (hereinafter referred to as the conventional invention) was made and has been well known.

The above-described conventional invention intends to reduce cost by forming the brick body composed of the fixed plate brick and sliding plate brick into a reasonable and economical shape. Reduction of cost is actually achieved by forming into a substantially egg-like shape in its plan view. However, the substantially egg-like shape reduces the contact area when the sliding plate brick is in a half opened state or in a transition from the half-opened state to a full-opened state during rotation, so that the contact distance

between the fixed plate brick and the sliding plate brick decreases.

As a consequence, a probability of molten steel leakage outside through that location has been recognized as a critical issue in practice

Accordingly an object of the present invention is to obtain a fixed plate brick and sliding plate brick having a reasonable shape by forming into a shape free of problems about leakage and durability in order to eliminate leakage for safety and improve cost matter relating to the durability.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been achieved to solve the above-described problem and the gist of the present invention is a rotary nozzle brick body having a single nozzle hole or two nozzle holes, comprising: assuming that A is a safety margin at the time of a 90° full-closed state of the nozzle hole in the brick body, B is a safety margin at the time of a full-opened state of the nozzle hole in the brick body, C is a distance between the center X of the brick body and the center Y of the nozzle hole, D is the diameter

of the nozzle hole in the brick body and $C > 4D/\pi$,

first circular portions having a radius of $C + (D/2) + A$ formed on both sides of a center X of the brick body; second circular portions having a radius of $C + (D/2) + B$ around the center Y of a nozzle hole located on a substantial center line between the two first circular portions and being formed perpendicularly to the direction of the first circular portions in a range of $\theta = 40 \pm 10^\circ$ in terms of the central angle of the brick; and

third circular portions having a radius of $(D/2) + B$ and being formed around intersections Z between a circular line drawn with a radius C around the center X of the brick body and lines drawn from the center X to both end points of the second circular portions,

wherein the second circular portions and the third circular portions are connected smoothly,

the first circular portions and the third circular portions are connected with tangent lines in terms of the plan view contour, and the plan view contour is substantially symmetrical with respect to the center X, where $B > A$.

In the brick body, it is preferable that A is set to 30 ± 15 mm and B is set to 60 ± 15 mm.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.

FIG. 1a is a plan view of a rotary nozzle brick body of the present invention and FIG. 1b is a sectional view taken along W-W of the rotary nozzle brick body of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a detailed explanatory diagram showing trajectory lines of the sliding plate brick as seen in plan view in the rotary nozzle brick body of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a reference front view of major portions of the rotary nozzle of a conventional invention.

FIG. 4 is a reference sectional view taken along U-U in FIG. 3 of the rotary nozzle of the conventional invention.

FIG. 5a is a reference front view for explaining a half-opened state of the brick body of the conventional invention and FIG. 5b is a reference plan view for explaining the half-opened state of the brick body of the conventional invention.

FIG. 6a is a reference front view for explaining a full-closed state of the brick body of the conventional invention and FIG. 6b is a reference plan view for explaining the full-closed state of the brick body of the conventional invention.

FIG. 7 is a detailed explanatory diagram showing the trajectory of the brick body of the conventional invention from its half-opened state to full-closed state.

FIG. 8 is an explanatory diagram showing the trajectory of the brick body of the present invention up to the half-opened state.

FIG. 9 is an explanatory diagram showing the trajectory of the brick body of the present invention from the half-opened state to the full-closed state.

FIG. 10 is an explanatory diagram showing the trajectory of the brick body of the present invention up to the full-closed state.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

The present invention will be described in detail with reference to drawings of the embodiments. FIG. 1a is a plan view of a brick body 1 of the rotary nozzle of the present invention. A fixed plate brick 2 and a sliding plate brick 3 is totally called the brick body 1 as shown in FIG. 1b. Reference numeral 2 denotes a fixed plate brick whose plan view shape is substantially elliptical. In FIG. 1b, reference numeral 3 denotes a sliding plate brick having the same shape as the fixed plate brick 2. The fixed plate brick

2 and the sliding plate brick 3 have the same shape although they are different in structure because the fixed plate brick 2 has one nozzle hole while the sliding plate brick 3 has two nozzle holes. Thus, the sliding plate brick 3 will be mainly described in a following description. When necessary, the fixed plate brick 2 will be referred. In the meantime, a shape indicated with two dot and dash line indicates a conventional brick body 1a having substantial egg-like shape.

FIG. 2 shows a locus diagram for forming the outline of a plan view shape of the sliding plate brick 3. A1 designates a safety margin at the time of 90° full-closed state, B1 designates a safety margin at the time of full-opened state, C designates a distance between the center X of the sliding plate brick 3 and the center Y of the nozzle holes 5, 5a and D designate the diameter of the nozzle holes 5, 5a.

First circular portions G in plan view of the sliding plate brick 3 are formed with a radius $C+(D/2)+A1$ around the center X and second circular portions H1 are formed with a radius $C+(D/2)+B1$ in a range of a central angel θ . Further, third circular portions K are formed with a radius $(D/2) + B$ around Z which are intersections

between a circle drawn with a radius C around the center X and lines extended at an angle θ from the center X . A shape of the sliding plate brick 3 in plan view is formed by connecting the first circular portions G with the third circular portions K with a tangent line $J1$. Where $B1 > A1$, and particularly it is preferable that $A1 = 30 \pm 15$ mm, $B1 = 60 \pm 15$ mm. θ is set to $40 \pm 10^\circ$.

Referring to FIGS. 1a, 1b, two nozzle holes 5, 5a are made in the sliding plate brick 3. The nozzle holes 5, 5a are of the same diameter because they are matched with the upper nozzle 11 and the lower nozzles 12, 12a. As shown in FIG. 2, the diameter D of the nozzle holes 5, 5a is empirically determined depending on operating condition such as the height of molten steel in the ladle, casting speed and the like. If the distance C from the center X is too small, the nozzle holes 5, 5a may join due to melting of the nozzle holes 5, 5a thereby possibly causing leakage. Thus, empirically, the distance needs to be so large that two nozzle holes each having a diameter D can be incorporated in a four divided line of a circle drawn with a radius C around the center X . Therefore, it comes that $C > 4D/\pi$. Although the two nozzle holes are made in the sliding plate brick 3, a single nozzle hole may be permitted

depending on an operating condition and the present invention is not restricted to two nozzle holes.

Sheets 7, 7a made of fire resistant paper or aluminum are adhered to the rear faces of the fixed plate brick 2 and the sliding plate brick 3 in order to block leakage while securing a smooth operation and intensifying adhesive property as shown in FIG. 1b. Then, iron bands 6, 6a are fixed around the outer peripheral faces of the fixed plate brick 2 and the sliding plate brick 3 to prevent deformation and cracks due to high temperatures.

A difference in structure between the conventional invention and the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. 7, 8, 9, and 10. As shown in FIG. 1, as for the safety margins A, B of the rotary nozzle of the conventional invention, empirically, A is set to 5 mm to 1D mm (where D is the diameter of the nozzle holes 4, 5, 5a in the above-described fixed plate brick 2 and the sliding plate brick 3) and B is set to E + F (where E is 0 mm to 15 mm). However, as shown in FIG. 7, when the sliding plate brick 3a of the conventional invention is rotated in a rotation direction W, distances L1, L2, L3 from an circular edge portion 24a of the nozzle hole 5b to an outer side face of the fixed

plate brick 2a at the time of a half-opened state and transitional states between the half-opened state and a full-closed state indicate that the nozzle hole 4 in the sliding plate brick 3a approaches a tangent line J to a first circular portion G and a second circular portion H of the fixed plate brick 2a. Thus, the contact area between the fixed plate brick 2a and the sliding plate brick 3a narrows and consequently, the contact distance shortens at L1, L2, L3 in a range where the circular edge portion 24a of the nozzle hole 5a approaches the outer side face of the fixed plate brick 2a during rotation of the sliding plate brick 3a. Thereby, there is a great fear of leakage of molten steel.

Thus, according to the present invention, as shown in FIG. 8, when the sliding plate brick 3 of the present invention is rotated in the rotation direction W1 up to a half-opened state, a considerably larger contact area than the conventional brick body as shown in FIG. 7 is maintained even though the circular edge portion 24 of the nozzle hole 5 in the sliding plate brick 3 approaches the second circular portion H1 and the third circular portion K of the fixed plate brick 2. Therefore, the contact area is not decreased largely and a distance L4 is maintained. An

improvement is clearly recognized if comparing with a distance L1 at the same rotation in FIG. 7. When the sliding plate brick 3 is full-closed from its half-opened state as shown in FIG. 9, a considerably larger contact area than the conventional brick body as shown in FIG. 7 is maintained even though the circular edge portion 24 of the nozzle hole 5 in the sliding plate brick 3 approaches the second circular portion H1 and the third circular portion K of the fixed plate brick 2. Therefore, the contact area is not decreased largely and a distance L5 is maintained. An improvement is clearly recognized if comparing with the distance L2 at the same rotation in FIG. 7. When the sliding plate brick 3 is full-closed as shown in FIG. 10, even though the circular edge portion 24 of the nozzle hole 5 in the sliding plate brick 3 approaches the second circular portion H1 and the third circular portion K of the fixed plate brick 2 with a distance L6 between them. However, the distance is improved as compared with the distance L3 at the same rotation in FIG. 7 although the contact area is reduced. Thus, because the contact area between the fixed plate brick 2 and the sliding plate brick 3 is considerably larger in comparison with the conventional brick body, the state to maintain

a preferable contact distance is improved.

Thus, according to the present invention, during rotation of the sliding plate brick 3 up to a full-closed state, a preferable contact area between the fixed plate brick 2 and the sliding plate brick 3 is secured and a preferable contact distance is maintained. By empirically setting the safety margin A1 to 30 ± 15 mm and the safety margin B1 to 60 ± 15 mm, a fear that molten steel may leak outside due to the short contact distance in the contact area is reduced so that the durability is increased.

The brick body of the present invention is formed into a substantially elliptical form in which a number of circular portions and tangent lines are increased in its plan view shape instead of a substantially egg-like shape and the safety margin A1 and the safety margin B1 are set to 30 ± 15 mm and 60 ± 15 mm respectively. Consequently, a preferable contact area is secured during rotation so that a contact distance between the fixed plate brick and the sliding plate brick is maintained in a preferable condition. Thus, it is possible to provide an excellent rotary nozzle brick body with which molten steel can be securely poured with safety, without leaking outside.

According to the present invention, by forming the brick body into a reasonable, economic and durable substantially elliptical shape, a maximum effect can be exerted with a minimum necessary area and the frequency of replacement of the brick body composed of expensive material can be reduced, thereby saving cost. At the same time, the present invention largely contributes to improvement in problems such as resource saving, environment and energy resources.